

**15 OCTOBER 2021 BOARD MEETING
DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 15

SUBJECT:

Irrigated Lands Program Groundwater Protection Values Update

BOARD ACTION:

Information Item Only

BACKGROUND:

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program staff will provide an update to the Board on current progress toward the development of a Groundwater Protection Targets. In its review (WQ 2018-0002) of the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed General WDRs, the State Water Resources Control Board directed the development of a Groundwater Protection Formula, to be used to compute Groundwater Protection Values and Targets for incorporation into existing Groundwater Quality Management Plans. To fulfil the second step in this process, third-party groups (Coalitions) within the region have developed township-specific root zone percolation and nitrate leaching estimates (Groundwater Protection Values) using the Central Valley Soil and Water Assessment Tool (CV-SWAT) model. The proposed values and supporting documentation were made available for 30-day public comment and two comment letters were received. A joint letter submitted by Clean Water Action, Community Water Center, and Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability addressed the accuracy and availability of data used to develop Groundwater Protection Values, ability to confirm results, identification of community impacts, and the process and timing for updating the values. A second letter submitted by the Environmental Law Foundation raised concern regarding the transparency of the data used to develop the Groundwater Protection Values.

RECOMMENDATION:

Not applicable.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	SYM, 9/14/21
Legal Review:	JMJ, 9/23/21

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Internet Zoom Meeting